REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are cancelled and claims 45-51 are pending. In response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the May 17th Office Action, Applicants hereby elect, for examination, Group I (claims 45-50), drawn to a method of evaluating a compounds for the ability to inhibit binding of two key regulatory regions of a voltage-gated ion channel protein, namely, (1) an intracellular receptor region of the α-subunit and (2) an amino-terminal inactivation region.

Applicants have amended claim 45 by (a) replacing "and" with "to" to correct a clerical error in the claim and (b) inserting the term "Kvß3" into the Markush grouping. This term was inadvertently omitted in the amendment filed March 24, 2004 but is present in claim 49. In addition, the term "activor" in claim 50 (a) (iii) has been replaced with correctly spelled term "activator." Claim 51, directed to a non-elected subject matter, is withdrawn. However, Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application covering the subject matter of claim 51.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented with an appropriate defined status identifier. The above amendments do not go beyond the original disclosure of the application.

For species election, Applicants elect, with traverse, Kvβ1, which is an amino-terminal inactivation region of an ion channel protein. In addition, Applicants elect Kv1.1, which is an intracellular receptor region of the α-subunit of a voltage gated-ion channel protein. The basis for traversing the Examiner's election of species requirement is set forth below.

At the outset, the claimed invention is drawn to a method of screening or identifying compounds that have the ability to inhibit the binding of "two" regulatory regions of an ion channel protein (claims 45 and 47). Inhibition of binding involves an amino-terminal inactivation region and an intracellular receptor region of the α-subunit of an ion channel protein. Based on this binding mechanism, Applicants should not only elect one but two species for examination on the merits.

In addition, under the partial waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.141 *et seq.*, Applicants are allowed to claim a reasonable number of sequences (at least ten) in a single application without restriction (see Examination of Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide

Sequences, 1192 *O.G.* 68 (November 19, 1996)). In the instant application, claims 45 and 49 recite 6 sequences while claims 46 and 48 recite 7 sequences. Each of these claims have less than ten sequences. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to either examine all of the species in claims 45 and 49 or examine all of the species in claims 46 and 48.

In accordance with the foregoing, examination on the merits is requested. Should there be any questions or should the Examiner wish to discuss any proposal to expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number shown below.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit No. 19-2380.

Respectfully submitted,

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